

Environmental Fact Sheet



Resource Conservation & Recovery Act

May 2001

Van Waters & Rogers, Inc.

This fact sheet contains information about the investigation and cleanup of contamination at the Van Waters and Rogers, Inc. (VW&R) facility. If you are interested in learning more or becoming involved, please fill out the form on the back page of this fact sheet and return it to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

What is happening this year

This year, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and VW&R will achieve significant milestones in cleaning up this site. Several major actions are planned, including:

- Constructing additional groundwater *interim control measures* (ICMs) to control migration of the groundwater plume beyond the facility boundary.
- Completing a *corrective measure study* (CMS), to evaluate alternative remedial technologies for contamination found at the site.
- Negotiating an amendment to the *Administrative Order on Consent* (AOC) for implementing the final remedy.

IN THIS ISSUE

What is happening this year
RCRA Corrective Action Process
A little bit of history

What has been done so far

- *Administrative Order on Consent*
- *Investigation of Contamination*
- *Interim Control Measures*
- *Corrective Measure Study*

Where to get more information

Below: An aerial view of the Van Waters and Rogers, Inc. facility in Portland, Oregon. Photo courtesy of VW&R.



RCRA Corrective Action Process

The following diagram represents the key elements of the RCRA Corrective Action Process. Van Waters & Rogers has completed the first, investigative phase of RCRA corrective action, and is currently pursuing corrective measure study and design and construction of interim corrective measures.

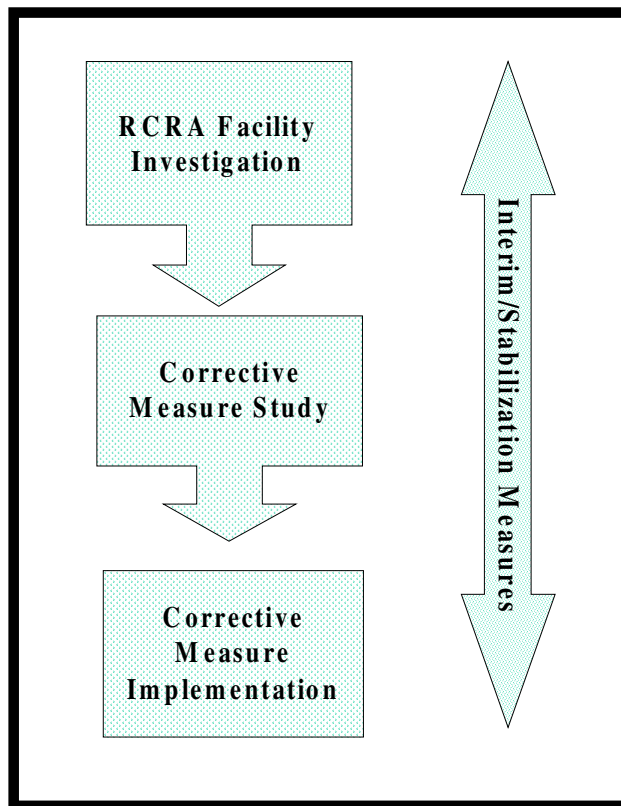


Figure 2 – RCRA Process

A little bit of history

Van Waters and Rogers, Inc. is located at 3950 Yeon Avenue in the northwest industrial area of Portland, Oregon. VW&R has operated this 9.5-acre facility since 1947 for bulk chemical packaging, storage, and distribution. This site is fenced and includes a 2-acre warehouse and loading dock area, a rail spur, and above-ground storage tanks. More than 90 percent of the site is covered with buildings and pavement.

VW&R handles a wide range of industrial chemicals at the facility, including a variety of organic solvents, acids and bases, ammonia and other materials. From 1973 until 1987, VW&R recycled used solvents and stored limited volumes of hazardous wastes associated with the recycling process. There were several documented chemical releases at the facility including spills of trichlorethylene (TCE), perchloroethylene (PCE), 1,1,1-trichlorethane (TCA), methylene chloride and toluene. In addition, small quantities of other chemicals were released during bulk chemical handling and transfer activities.

What has been done so far

Administrative Order on Consent: In 1988, EPA issued an Administrative Order on Consent to VW&R under Section 3008(h) of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), as amended 42 U.S.C. 6928 (h). The Order required VW&R to:

- conduct a site investigation to characterize the nature and extent of contamination in soil and groundwater at the facility and in adjacent area,
- conduct a corrective measures study to evaluate corrective action alternatives for the contamination detected at the site, and
- implement interim corrective measures.

Investigation of the Contamination: VW&R conducted a field investigation to determine the nature and extent of contamination. Soil samples were collected and analyzed from over 100 locations. In addition, wells were installed at 23 locations to sample groundwater, and gas wells were installed at 4 sampling locations. The results of the investigation are summarized in the 1993 RCRA Facility Investigation (RFI) Report. The contaminants detected in the groundwater were volatile organic compounds such as PCE, TCE and TCA. EPA did not identify any imminent danger to

human health or the environment posed by the site.

Since the completion of the RFI Report, a series of additional field investigations were conducted to better understand the distribution of contaminants in the shallow groundwater. These investigations also provided information on some significant changes in groundwater flow patterns than occurred during the mid-1990's.

Interim Control Measures: Based on the results of the 1993 RFI Report, VW&R agreed to install a soil vapor extraction (SVE) system for removal of subsurface contamination. To date, the system has removed and recovered over 9,000 pounds of contaminants.

Further field investigation has indicated that additional groundwater controls are needed at both the north and south ends of the facility to keep the contamination from moving offsite. Beginning in 1997, VW&R began to evaluate technology options for these interim corrective measures and proposed a groundwater extraction and treatment system. VW&R has completed design of the system and is preparing to begin construction of the system in the spring of 2001.

Corrective Measures Study: Concurrent with the development of interim corrective measures, VW&R began a corrective measure study to evaluate and select the final cleanup action for the facility. The study defines appropriate cleanup goals, develops site-specific cleanup levels for soil and groundwater that will be protective of human health and the environment, and evaluates potential cleanup technologies.

Where to get more information

To find more information about the cleanup activities at the VW&R site, please visit any of the information repositories. The information repositories contain documents such as the Administrative Order on Consent, work plans, study reports and technical memoranda. The information repositories have been established at the following locations:

EPA Region 10 Oregon Operations Office
Executive Building, 3rd floor, 811 SW 6th
Avenue, Portland, OR 97204
503-326-3686

Van Waters and Rogers, Inc.
3950 NW Yeon Avenue
Portland, OR 97210
503-222-1721

EPA Region 10 (Seattle office)
Office of Waste and Chemical Management
1200 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, WA 98101
206-553-8283

You are also welcome to call or e-mail for information:

Anna Filutowski, EPA Project Manager
206-553-5122
filutowski.anna@epa.gov

Judy R. Smith, Community Involvement
Coordinator
206-553-6246
Smith.JudyR@epa.gov